

**SACRAMENTO HISTORY CENTER
SACRAMENTO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES SURVEY ORAL HISTORY CARD**

Respondent: MARIE HEBUK RASMUSSEN (Retired dairy farmer)
6154 South Walnut Street #5
Loomis, California

Interviewer: Susan Hardwick Sacramento History Center
Date(s): 8-26-83
Length(s): 30 minutes
Language(s): English
Setting(s): Rasmussen home in Loomis, California

Major Topic(s): Finnish settlement in Rocklin and Loomis area.
The Hebuk public sauna.
"Socialist Finns" and "Church Finns"
Finnish songs (sung by Marie at the end of the tape)

Comments:

Future Issues/Topics:

Restriction(s) on Use:
☒ Tape ☒ Index ☒ Summary ☒ Transcription ☒ CC ☒ W-Int

SACRAMENTO ETHNIC HISTORY SURVEY BIOGRAPHICAL SHEET

PERSONAL DATA:

Name: MARIE HEBUK RASMUSSEN

Address: South Walnut Street
Loomis, California

Phone: (hm) 652-0123 (wk) --

Ethnic Affiliation or Identification: Finnish

Date of Birth: March, 1901

Place of Birth: Loomis, California

Father's Name: Thomas Hebuk

Father's Occupation: Blacksmith in the Rocklin quarries.

Mother's Name: (include maiden name) —

Mother's Occupation: Housewife and mother; she also ran one of
Rocklin's public saunas.

Number and Sex of Siblings: eight

Subject's Length of Residence in Sacramento: Loomis/Rocklin --
all her life.

Other Important Biographical Information:

Marie Hebuk Rasmussen is one of the last living members of one of Rocklin's best known Finn families. Her brother, Uno Hebuk (now deceased), has collected histories of Placer County Finns, and this information is presently stored in the Roseville Public Library.

MARIE HEBUK RASMUSSEN

INTERVIEW

by Susan Hardwick
Sacramento History Center
August 26, 1983

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SIDE A

0 Introduction

21 Marie discusses the place of her birth in Rocklin.
The Hebuk's build one of the first "real" homes in the area
when she is five years old.

1:15 Rocklin gets electricity!

1:53 The Hebuk's open one of Rocklin's public suanas. Old house
converted into sauna ("steambath") -- Marie describes the
experience of firing up the sauna to create steam. Finns
sat up on benches at various levels and beat themselves with
Eucalyptus branches to improve circulation. This was followed
by a cold shower.

4:00 Location of Hebuk sauna and home in Rocklin (South Grove Street).

4:18 Marie's mother makes famous Finnish "Gallia" drink for the
quarry workers. She goes on to discuss the work her mother did
at the family home (laundry, sauna towels, brewing drink, etc.).

5:38 Marie's parent's family background -- first settled in Loomis,
later in Rocklin.

6:15 Mr. Hebuk's occupation as a blacksmith for the quarries.

6:34 The Hebuk family members -- eight children grew up in Rocklin.
Births and deaths of Hebuk children.

7:42 The role of women in the Finnish community.
("There was maybe ten to twenty men for every woman in Rocklin!")

8:29 Mantyla's boarding house for the Finn men. . . basement was a
restaurant.

9:11 Finn social events discussed -- Finn Hall, Christmas celebrations
in Rocklin, Finn picnics, young people's "Granite Club" events,
fun at Secret Ravine.

11:11 The Rocklin Echo Band (Finn Band) -- Marie's father played in it.

- 12:02 More on the Finnish Temperance Hall.
- 12:21 Finnish Brotherhood Society in Rocklin.
- 12:41 Marie's birth in 1901; her life in Rocklin; her life in Loomis as the wife of a Dane.
- 13:14 The Rasmussen's open the first Grade A dairy in the area (The Sunrise Dairy).
- 14:14 Rasmussen's farming experience -- "fruit business went into a slump," so they changed to dairying (they bought the old Warrendale place). Milk delivery in old panel truck as far as Sacramento.
- 15:49 The Rasmussen's have eight children; they all still live in the Rocklin/Loomis area. Feelings about being a Finn (second generation . . .).
- 16:47 Marie's experiences in school in early Rocklin. "For the first week I wouldn't open my mouth" -- she spoke no English when she began! Graduated from eighth grade in Rocklin. Then attended high school in Roseville when it was held in an old hotel. Marie remembers moving to the new high school in Roseville and riding the train (a "local" between Roseville and Sacramento) to high school with about twenty five other Rocklin children.
- 19:14 Marie talks about the songs her mother taught her as a child. She describes the wood stove where she learned many Finnish songs at her mother's knee.
- 20:34 Medical care among the Finns in early Rocklin.
- 22:12 Marie's mother and the Finnish Lutheran churches in Rocklin.
- 23:07 Finnish songs from the old country sung by Marie Rasmussen.
- 24:44 Socialism among the Finns in Rocklin; Marie's father's beliefs and the "radical Finns." The Labor Temple in Rocklin (later it became a Methodist Church and then the Rocklin Library). The end of the boom in the Rocklin quarries.
- 27:28 More Finnish music sung by Marie.



**Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey -
Finnish Oral Histories
1983/146**

Oral interview of
Marie Hebuk Rasmussen

August 26, 1983

Conducted by Susan Hardwick

Transcribed by Rocklin Historical Society

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MARIE HEBUCK RASMUSSEN
INTERVIEWED BY SUSAN HARDWICK
AUGUST 26, 1983
ROCKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"THIS IS SUSAN HARDWICK AT THE SACRAMENTO HISTORY CENTER. I WILL BE INTERVIEWING MARIE HEBUCK RASMUSSEN TODAY. MARIE IS FROM A LARGE FAMILY OF FINNS WELL KNOWN IN THE ROCKLIN-LOOMIS AREA.

"MARIE, WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TODAY ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. TELL ME ABOUT THE HOUSE THAT YOU WERE BORN IN, THE CABIN; IS IT STILL THERE?"

NO, THE HOUSE THAT I WAS BORN IN WAS A REGULAR BOARD AND BATTING SHACK HOUSE, AS I CALLED IT. JUST LIKE THEY HAVE IN THE OLD-TIME MOVIES. THEY WERE VERY DRAFTY. MY MOTHER CLAIMED THAT SHE COULD HARDLY KEEP A COAL LAMP BURNING ANY TIME THE WIND WOULD BLOW THROUGH. BUT THAT IS THE KIND OF HOME THAT I WAS BORN IN. WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD, DURING THAT TIME THE QUARRY BUSINESS HAD COME TO SUCH A POINT THAT THEY HAD ENOUGH MONEY THAT THEY HAD A BRAND NEW HOUSE BUILT, ONE OF THE FIRST HOMES BUILT BY A REGULAR CONTRACTOR, BUILDING CONTRACTOR.

WE MOVED INTO THAT HOUSE WHEN I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD. I CAN REMEMBER CLIMBING UP THE BACK STEPS CARRYING POTS AND PANS AND GETTING INTO THE HOUSE. I CAN REMEMBER LATER, AFTER WE HAD ALREADY MOVED IN WHEN THE ELECTRIC LINES WERE PUT IN ON THE STREETS. WE WERE ALL STANDING IN THE DINING ROOM AND WE HAD A NICE LIGHT UP IN THE CEILING, WITH FOUR OR FIVE LIGHTS, WHEN THEY SNAPPED THE BUTTON, THE WHOLE ROOM

FILLED WITH LIGHT. WHAT A WONDERFUL SENSATION THAT WAS. HERE WE TAKE ELECTRICITY FOR GRANTED, DON'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT. OUR NEW HOUSE DID NOT HAVE ANY RUNNING HOT WATER. WE DID HAVE COLD WATER PIPED IN TO US. WE DIDN'T HAVE A BATHROOM. WE TOOK OUR BATHS IN A REGULAR WASHTUB ON THE KITCHEN FLOOR. ONE REASON WHY WE DIDN'T BOTHER ABOUT A BATHROOM WAS BECAUSE MY MOTHER HAD MADE PART OF THE OLD HOUSE INTO A SAUNA.

FIRST SHE BUILT IT JUST FOR HERSELF BUT AFTER AWHILE THERE WERE SO MANY SINGLE MEN WORKING IN THE QUARRIES THAT THEY WERE ALL LOOKING FOR PLACES TO TAKE BATHS. MOM HAD IT INLARGED AND SHE MADE IT SO ONE HALF OF THE BUILDING WAS FOR WOMEN. TWO ROOMS FOR THEM, A DRESSING ROOM AND THE SAUNA ROOM. ON THE OTHER SIDE WAS THE MEN'S SECTION AND BETWEEN THE TWO DRESSING ROOMS WAS A ROOM WHERE SHE FIRED THE SAUNA OVEN.

"HOW DID THEY HEAT IT?"

THIS WAS MADE LIKE A ROCK OR BRICK FIREPLACE. UNDERNEATH WAS STICKS SO YOU COULD BURN WOOD IN THERE TO HEAT IT. THE SMOKE FROM THE FIRE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THESE ROUND STONES. I THINK THE STONES WERE ABOUT THREE OR FOUR FEET DEEP. THEN, WHEN THEY WOULD GO IN THERE TO BATHE, THEY WOULD POUR COLD WATER ON THESE ROCK STONES AND THAT WOULD MAKE THE STEAM. THAT IS CALLED A FINNISH SAUNA BATH AND THEY WOULD GET UP ON HIGH STEPS OR PERCHES IN THE SAUNA ROOM AND YOU SIT ON THEM AND THEY COULD BE THREE OR FOUR LEVELS. THE HIGHER THEY WENT THE MORE STEAM THEY WOULD GET.

THEY WOULD SIT THERE, STRIPPED NAKED WITH BRANCHES OF EUCALYPTUS, A NICE, BIG BUNCH AND THEY WOULD STRAP THEIR SHOULDERS AND BACKS

AND BODIES WITH THESE EUCALYPTUS BRANCHES AND BRING THE BLOOD TO THE SURFACE SO THAT THE STEAM WOULD GO RIGHT THROUGH THE BODY. IN THE CORNER OF THE SAUNA ROOM WAS A COLD SHOWER. WHEN THEY GOT THROUGH WITH THAT, THEY WOULD STAND UNDER THAT COLD SHOWER BEFORE THEY WOULD GO AND GET DRESSED. WITH WOMEN IT WAS DIFFERENT. THEY HAD THE SAUNA THE SAME WAY BUT WHEN THEY GOT THROUGH, THEY JUMPED INTO A NICE, COLD LAKE.

"WHY DID THE FINNS USE THE SAUNA?"

WELL, THEY THOUGHT IT WAS HEALTHY, FORCED THE IMPURITIES OUT OF THE BODY, YOU WOULD SWEAT TERRIBLY. THAT WAS THEIR WAY OF TAKING A BATH.

"WHERE WAS THE HOUSE LOCATED IN ROCKLIN?"

IT WAS ON SOUTH GROVE STREET. IT WAS ON PART OF OUR PROPERTY, THE SAUNA WAS JUST A FEW FEET FROM THE MAIN HOUSE. MY MOTHER RAN THAT FOR MANY, MANY YEARS. IT WASN'T JUST THE SAUNA THAT SHE HAD. IT WASN'T THE ONLY ATTRACTION. SHE ALSO MADE WHAT THEY CALL A FINNISH DRINK CALLED IT IS MADE WITH MOLASSES AND SUGAR AND WATER. SHE MADE IT IN A BIG BARREL, ABOUT A 100 GALLON BARREL IN THE BASEMENT OF THE HOUSE AND WHENEVER THEY WOULD COME TO SAUNA THEY WOULD PAY THIRTY-FIVE CENTS FOR TAKING A BATH AND THEY WOULD THEN COME IN THE HOUSE AND GET A GREAT BIG GLASS OF IT WAS JUST LIKE BEER, HALF WAY DOWN THE GLASS WITH FOAM AND IT TASTED DELICIOUS.

"DO YOU REMEMBER THE TASTE?"

OH, MY GOODNESS, I JUST WISH I HAD THE RECIPE BUT I DON'T HAVE IT.

"SHE WAS A WELL-KNOWN PERSON IN ROCKLIN."

IT WAS HER JOB THEN TO HEAT THE SAUNA ONE DAY A WEEK, THEN ON MONDAY SHE WOULD WASH ABOUT 60-80 VATS BECAUSE SHE FURNISHED HOUSE FOR THESE FELLOWS, TOO. AND THAT WAS ALL DONE IN JUST AN OPEN TUB, YOU KNOW, WITH A SCRUB BOARD. BEING THAT THEY WERE JUST BATH TOWELS THEY WEREN'T FILTHY LIKE OVERALLS AND LIKE THAT. SHE WOULD WASH THEM AND THEN SHE WOULD BOIL THEM.

I REMEMBER TIME AND TIME AGAIN SHE HAD A WHOLE MESS OF TOWELS ON THE LINE AND WE WOULD COUNT THEM. WE WOULD GET A BIG KICK OUT OF COUNTING, MAYBE ABOUT 60-65, ON AVERAGE EVERY TIME WE WOULD DO THE WASH. THEY WERE BIG BATH TOWELS. YOU HAD A FINNISH BATH, A SAUNA BATH AND THIS BIG GLASS OF FOR THIRTY-FIVE CENTS, WHERE CAN YOU DO BETTER THAN THAT? (LAUGHTER).

"TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MOTHER, DID SHE COME FROM FINLAND?"

MY FATHER AND MY MOTHER BOTH EMIGRATED FROM FINLAND. WHEN THEY FIRST CAME HERE THEY STOPPED IN LOOMIS. THEY WERE IN LOOMIS ABOUT A YEAR-AND-A-HALF. THE FIRST QUARRY WORK THAT MY FATHER DID WAS IN THE LOOMIS QUARRY.

"WHEN DID THEY COME TO LOOMIS?"

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE DATES BECAUSE I HAD NOT THOUGHT TO LOOK THAT UP.

"DID THEY COME TOGETHER AS A MARRIED COUPLE?"

NO, MY FATHER CAME FIRST AND THEN MY MOTHER CAME. ROCKLIN

STARTED BOOMING SO THEY MOVED INTO ROCKLIN WHERE THE ROCKLIN FINNS GATHERED. MY FATHER ALSO HAD WORKED AT GRIFFITHS QUARRY IN PENRYN.

"DID YOUR FATHER KNOW THE STONE-CUTTING TRADE BEFORE HE CAME HERE?"

I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE MY FATHER WAS A BLACKSMITH, THAT'S WHAT HE DID. HE SHARPENED ALL THE TOOLS THAT THEY WORKED WITH AT THE QUARRY.

"DID HE WORK IN QUARRIES ALL HIS LIFE, WAS THAT HIS OCCUPATION?"

YES, THAT WAS THE ONLY KIND OF WORK THAT HE HAD EVER DONE, WAS QUARRY WORK.

"HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DO YOU HAVE?"

WELL, THERE WERE TWELVE IN OUR FAMILY. THERE WERE EIGHT, NOW I DON'T REMEMBER. OH, I CAN'T REMEMBER JUST HOW THEY DID NUMBER OUT NOW. BUT ANYWAY, THERE WERE EIGHT OF US THAT GREW UP, FOUR OF THEM DIED AS BABIES, WE NEVER CONSIDRED THEM THAT MUCH. SHE HAD A SET OF TWINS AND THEY BOTH DIED. THE LAST BABY WAS BORN BUT SHE WAS A LITTLE GIRL. THEN THE BABY BEFORE ME. MY BROTHER DIED. I REMEMBER MY MOTHER SAYING SHE WASN'T SO HAPPY WHEN I CAME BECAUSE WHILE SHE WAS HAVING ME AND BEING IN BED SHE KEPT SAYING, WHY COULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN . . . THAT WAS HER FIRST CHILD TO DIE, SO SHE FELT TERRIBLE ABOUT IT.

"HOW DID YOUR MOTHER HANDLE ALL THOSE CHILDREN AND RUNNING THAT BUSINESS?"

AT TIMES I CAN REMEMBER YOUNG GIRLS THAT WOULD COME FROM FINLAND. THEY WOULD COME HERE AND THEY WOULD WIND UP AT MY HOUSE. EVEN IN ROCKLIN, HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE ? THEIR MOTHER CAME AS A YOUNG GIRL AND I KNOW SHE WORKED AT MY MOTHER'S HOUSE. WHEN A GIRL CAME TO ROCKLIN IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG BEFORE SHE WAS MARRIED BECAUSE THERE WERE ABOUT 10-20 MEN FOR EVERY WOMAN.

"THERE WERE?"

THERE WAS A GROUP. THEY GOT MARRIED RIGHT AWAY. MY MOTHER HAD NIECES COME HERE

"WHY WERE THERE SO MANY MORE MEN THAN WOMEN?"

WELL, THEY WERE WORKING THE QUARRIES. AND THAT'S WHY, MAYBE YOU HAVE HEARD THEM TALK ABOUT ? HE HAD A BIG BOARDING HOUSE THERE BY THAT ROCK STORE. IT BECAME PERCUS PLACE. THAT WAS A BOARDING HOUSE FOR THESE FINNS. I CAN REMEMBER IN LATER YEARS WHEN THEY BOUGHT THE OLD METHODIST CHURCH AND TURNED THAT INTO A BOARDING HOUSE. THE BASEMENT WAS A REGULAR RESTAURANT. MY MOTHER USED TO FURNISH THEM MILK. I CAN STILL SEE MY BROTHER CARRYING BUCKETS OF MILK EVERY MORNING.

"SO YOUR FAMILY WAS A REALLY HARD-WORKING PART OF ROCKLIN?"

I THINK ALL OF THE EARLY PEOPLE, THEY WERE ALL HARD-WORKING. THAT'S ALL THEY KNEW. THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY LUXURY, THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TAKE THEIR TIME AWAY FROM WORK. THEY DIDN'T SMOKE OR DRINK OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. THEY WERE ALL CLEAN PEOPLE.

"WHAT DID THE FINNS DO FOR FUN, DID THEY HAVE ANY SOCIAL ACTIVITIES?"

WELL, THEY BUILT THE FINN HALL IN 1905 AND, OF COURSE, THAT WAS A GATHERING PLACE. I CAN REMEMBER MY FIRST CHRISTMAS PARTY THERE, A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM THAT THEY HAD. THERE WAS A GREAT BIG CHRISTMAS TREE AND THEY HAD BOARDS NAILED THROUGH THE TREE SO THEY EXTENDED TO THE OUTSIDE AND THEN THEY HAD LONG, WHITE CANDLES ON IT. THERE WAS NO ELECTRICITY YET. THIS WAS BEFORE ELECTRICITY CAME. SOMEBODY HAD TO STAND THERE AND WATCH THE TREE THE WHOLE TIME SO THAT IT WOULDN'T CATCH FIRE.

THAT WAS WEIRD, WE'RE ALL STANDING THERE LOOKING AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE. THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE THAT I HAVE EVER SEEN.

"WERE CHRISTMAS TREES USUALLY A PART OF FINN CHRISTMASES?"

YES, THEY HAD TREES IN FINLAND. THEY CELEBRATED WITH A TREE BUT, OF COURSE, FINLAND IS CROWDED WITH CHRISTMAS TREES. THEY GROW WILD OUT THERE. THEY ARE ALL OVER. ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS OPEN THE DOOR AND CUT DOWN A TREE.

"DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE FINN PICNICS OR OTHER SPECIAL THINGS?"

YES, I CAN REMEMBER THE FINNISH PICNICS AND THEN THE YOUNG PEOPLE ORGANIZED, WHAT THEY CALLED A GRANITE CLUB. THAT WAS FOR UNMARRIEDS UP UNTIL YOUNG PEOPLE FROM, I WOULD SAY, FROM 12-14 TO 21-25. THEY MET REGULARLY AND THEY HAD PICNICS. BEFORE THAT, I CAN ALSO REMEMBER WHEN THEY HAD PICNICS AND PEOPLE WOULD COME FROM THE BAY AREA BY TRAIN. THEY WOULD

CHARTER A TRAIN AND BRING A WHOLE LOAD OF PEOPLE AND THE BAND WOULD BE WAITING FOR THEM AT THE DEPOT AND THE BAND WOULD PLAY AND THEY WOULD MARCH ON DOWN RIGHT UP TO THE FINN HALL AND OVER TO SECRET RAVINE WHERE THEY USUALLY HELD THEIR PICNICS. THEY WORKED HARD AND THEY HAD FUN. IN MY FAMILY TOO, MY FATHER AND ALL MY BROTHERS ALL PLAYED SOME KIND OF AN INSTRUMENT.

"THERE WAS A FINN BAND, THEN? TELL ME ABOUT THAT, WAS IT THE ECHO BAND, WAS THAT THE SAME THING?"

I DON'T REMEMBER WHETHER THEY CALLED IT THE ECHO BAND OR NOT. I WAS MUCH SMALLER.

"BUT THERE WERE A LOT OF INSTRUMENTS?"

OH YES, THEY HAD A FULL BAND, UNIFORMS. THE PLAYERS ALL WORE UNIFORMS. SOME PLACE IN MY COLLECTION I HAVE A PICTURE OF MY FATHER IN HIS UNIFORM.

"SO IT WAS ALL MEN, MOSTLY QUARRY WORKERS?"

ALL MEN.

"HOW DID THEY HAVE TIME TO PRACTICE WITH ALL THEIR WORK AT THE QUARRY? I WONDER HOW THEY HAD TIME TO PLAY IN A BAND?"

WELL, THEY JUST WORKED DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS. EVENINGS WERE LONG. WE DIDN'T HAVE TELEVISION OR RADIO OR ANYTHING ELSE. THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE TO DO. THAT'S WHY THEY STARTED THE FINN HALL. THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO AND THEN THE MEN CONGREGATED IN THE SALOON. THERE WERE SALOONS, ONE AFTER ANOTHER RIGHT IN THE MAIN PART OF ROCKLIN. THEY DIDN'T LIKE THAT EITHER, SO THEY BUILT THIS HALL, THEY CALLED IT THE FINNISH

TEMPERANCE HALL. TEMPERANCE UNION. SO THEY COMBATED THE SALOONS THAT WAY. THEN THEY FORMED A FINNISH BROTHERHOOD AND THAT IS ALL OVER THE BIG CITIES. SOMETHING LIKE THE MASONIC LODGE. THEY GOT A BENEFIT OUT OF IT. WHEN ANYONE NEEDED HELP THERE WAS A MEMBER THAT HELPED THEM.

"LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU A LITTLE BIT, WHEN WERE YOU BORN?"

I WAS BORN ON MARCH 25, 1901.

"AND YOU LIVED IN THIS AREA ALL YOUR LIFE?"

I HAVE LIVED IN ROCKLIN UNTIL I WAS OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE AND I GOT MARRIED AND MOVED TO LOOMIS 3½ MILES AWAY AND I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 65 YEARS NOW.

"DID YOU MARRY A FINN?"

NO, I MARRIED A BOY FROM DANISH TOWN.

"SO, ANOTHER SCANDINAVIAN. WAS IT COMMON FOR THE SCANDINAVIAN PEOPLE TO MARRY EACH OTHER A LOT HERE?"

A LOT OF THEM MARRIED THAT WAY BUT AS TIME WENT ON THERE WEREN'T THAT MANY FINNS SO THEN FEW STAYED IN THE FINNISH RACE.

"WHAT DID YOUR HUSBAND DO AS A LIVING?"

MY HUSBAND, HIS FOLKS HAD A PLACE HERE IN LOOMIS SO WE WENT INTO THE FRUIT THEN, AND AFTER SEVERAL YEARS WE RAN A DAIRY BUSINESS AND WE HAD, WHAT YOU CALL THE "SUNRISE DAIRY." FOR MANY YEARS WE OPERATED THAT. HIS HEALTH BEGAN TO FAIL A BIT SO WE MOVED BACK TO ROCKLIN IN THE EARLY SPRING AND HE DIED THAT FALL. HE DIED THE LAST DAY OF SEPTEMBER.

"YOUR DAIRY WAS WELL-KNOWN, IT WAS A GRADE-A DAIRY."
YES, IT WAS A GRADE-A DAIRY. WE HAD A PANELED TRUCK, THE ONLY PANELED TRUCK THAT WAS TO BE SEEN AT THAT TIME. HAD SUNRISE DAIRY ON IT.

DO MOST SCANDINAVIANS, WAS DAIRY WAS AN IMPORTANT JOB OR WERE YOU ONE OF THE FEW FAMILIES THAT DID THAT?"

MY HUSBAND HAD A HANKERING FOR COWS, ALL THE TIME. HE HATED THE FRUIT WORK. WE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING IN IT AND AT THAT TIME, TOO, THE FRUIT WENT INTO A SLUMP. FOR MANY YEARS, WHEN WE WERE IN THE FRUIT BUSINESS, WE WOULD WORK ALL SUMMER AND AT THE END OF THE YEAR WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING. THE FREIGHT JUST TOOK IT ALL. LOTS OF TIMES WE WOULD SHIP MAYBE A LOAD OF PLUMS AND WHEN THE RETURN WOULD COME, WE WOULD HAVE TO PAY FREIGHT, WENT IN THE HOLE WITH IT, IT WAS TERRIBLE, SO WE HAD TO GET OUT OF IT.

WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY. MY FATHER GAVE US A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS AND WE ABLE TO BUY FROM THIS OLD COUPLE THAT HAD A PLACE, CALLED 'WARRENDALE', WE BOUGHT THEIR PLACE. HE HELPED US TO GET STARTED.

"HOW MANY COWS DID YOU HAVE?"

OH, I IMAGINE AROUND 18-20 COWS. WE DELIVERED THE GRADE-A MILK. FIRST WE STARTED TAKING IT ALL THE WAY TO SACRAMENTO THEN PURNEES STARTED IN ROSEVILLE SO WE DELIVERED FOR YEARS TO PURNEES. WE FILLED IT IN 10 GALLON CANS AND DELIVERED IT THAT WAY AND THEN THEY WERE BOTTLED.

"WAS IT TOTALLY MILK OR DID YOU HAVE OTHER PRODUCTS?"

NO. THAT'S ALL WE SOLD.

"DID YOU USE MILKING MACHINES?"

MILKING MACHINES AND WE USED STERILIZERS AND ALL THAT,
IN THE BOTTLING ROOM.

"WAS IT A FAMILY OPERATION?"

IT WAS A FAMILY OCCUPATION. MY HUSBAND, WITH THE HELP OF
SOME OLDER KIDS AS THEY GOT BIGGER, THEY HELPED. I WAS IN
CHARGE OF STERILIZING ROOM, TAKING CARE OF THE MILK PART.

"HOW MANY CHILDREN DID YOU HAVE?"

WE HAD EIGHT CHILDREN.

"ARE THEY STILL LIVING AROUND HERE?"

THEY ARE ALL AROUND HERE. MY EIGHT CHILDREN, IF I WANTED TO
HAVE THEM HERE I COULD HAVE THEM HERE IN THIRTY MINUTES.
THE FURTHEST AWAY IS IN FLORIN AND ONE IN ELDORADO HILLS.

"DO THEY FEEL LIKE THEY ARE FINNS, DO THEY FEEL SCANDINAVIAN,
DO THEY KNOW ANY WAYS?"

I THINK THEY ARE A LITTLE PROUD OF THEIR BACKGROUND BECAUSE I
KNOW THAT WHENEVER ANYTHING COMES OUT IN THE PAPER, THEY
HEAR ANYTHING, THEY ARE ALWAYS READY TO TELL ME ABOUT IT.

"DID YOU EVER TEACH THEM ANYTHING FINNISH, FINNISH WORDS, ETC.?"

NO, THEY ONLY LEARNED TWO OR THREE WORDS, USUALLY THEY WERE THE
BAD WORDS, (LAUGHTER).

"TELL ME ABOUT, AS YOU WERE GROWING UP IN ROCKLIN, DID YOU

GO TO SCHOOL THERE?"

I WENT THROUGH THE EIGHTH GRADE IN ROCKLIN. I STARTED SCHOOL WHEN I WAS ABOUT 5 YEARS OLD. WHEN I FIRST STARTED SCHOOL I COULDN'T TALK AT ALL. FOR THE FIRST WEEK I WOULDN'T OPEN MY MOUTH. SO THE TEACHER CALLED MY OLDER SISTER FROM THE OTHER SCHOOL IN BACK OF US. 'YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KEEP HER AT HOME. I CAN'T GET HER TO TALK.' SO THAT WEEKEND I GOT THE WORKOVER. I HAD TO TALK OR ELSE I COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL. SO I WENT TO SCHOOL AND I STARTED TALKING. EVERYTHING WAS FINE.

I WENT THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE. WHEN I GRADUATED FROM EIGHTH GRADE, IN ORDER TO GRADUATE, WE HAD TO TAKE TESTS FROM THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE. WE HAD TO PASS TESTS IN THE DIFFERENT SUBJECTS, LIKE LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND ARITHMATIC AND SPELLING AND ALL THAT. I GRADUATED WITH A 96% AVERAGE.

"WAS THERE A HIGH SCHOOL IN ROCKLIN?"

NO, THE HIGH SCHOOL WAS ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL. I WENT THERE FOR FOUR YEARS AND I STARTED IN ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WHEN IT WAS STILL IN AN OLD HOTEL IN THE CENTER OF ROSEVILLE. I WENT THERE ABOUT A YEAR-AND-A-HALF. THEN WE MOVED INTO THE NEW SCHOOL AND THAT WAS A BIG DAY. WE HAD TO CLEAN OUT OUR DESKS AND TAKE THE STUFF THAT WE WANTED TO TAKE TO THE NEW SCHOOL AND EVERYTHING ELSE WAS PUT INTO A BIG BONFIRE. WE HAD A BONFIRE BY THE OLD SCHOOL AND WE ALL STOOD AROUND AND SANG SONGS. THEN WE TOOK OUR BOOKS IN OUR HANDS AND WALKED FROM THERE TO THE NEW SCHOOL. THAT WAS SOMETHING. NOW THE NEW SCHOOL IS GONE, THEY HAVE KNOCKED IT DOWN. WHY THEY EVER HAD TO KNOCK THAT SCHOOL DOWN, I DON'T KNOW.

"HOW DID YOU GET TO ROSEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL?"

THEY HAD A LITTLE LOCAL THAT RAN FROM COLFAX TO SACRAMENTO. IT COST \$3.00 A MONTH FOR OUR TRANSPORTATION. WE WOULD CATCH THE TRAIN AT ROCKLIN AND WE WENT AS FAR AS THE DEPOT IN ROSEVILLE, BUT THE NEW SCHOOL WAS BUILT, THEY WERE GOOD TO STOP AND ALLOW US TO GET OFF AND GO TO SCHOOL. BUT IN ORDER TO CATCH IT AGAIN, WE HAD TO WALK DOWN TO THE DEPOT TO GET IT.

"WAS IT A WHOLE GROUP OF KIDS?"

OH, YES THERE WAS QUITE A NUMBER OF US THAT CAME FROM ROCKLIN.

"WERE THEY MOSTLY FINNS THAT WENT?"

I WOULDN'T SAY THEY WERE ALL FINNS. I COULDN'T JUDGE NOW, BUT I WOULD SAY THERE WERE 20-25 KIDS THEN. MANY TIMES WE WOULD WALK FROM SCHOOL ON THE SPRING DAYS. I CAN REMEMBER WALKING AND PICKING PANSIES AND POPPIES. OVER THERE WHERE THE FREEWAY IS NOW.

"WHAT WERE YOUR MEMORIES AS YOU WERE GROWING UP, DID THEY INCLUDE SOME OF THE SONGS THAT YOUR MOTHER TAUGHT YOU? YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT IT A LITTLE BIT AND YOU SHOWED ME A PICTURE OF THE WOOD STOVE. WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT THAT?"

WHEN WE MOVED INTO THE NEW HOUSE, THEY BOUGHT A BRAND NEW STOVE, REAL OLD-FASHIONED STOVE THAT HAD A WARMING OVEN UP ON THE TOP AND ON THE BACK END OF IT WAS A BIG TANK THAT WE FILLED WITH COLD WATER. THAT'S HOW WE GOT OUR HOT WATER. THEN WE WOULD HAVE TO BAIL IT OUT OF THAT TANK WHEN WE WANTED TO USE IT. THAT WAS HER PRIDE AND JOY, THAT STOVE, BECAUSE

GOODNESS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE EVER USED TO COOK ON BEFORE. IN THE WINTER MONTHS SHE WAS A GREAT BELIEVER IN FEEDING THE KIDS FRIED ONIONS. SHE WOULD FRY ONIONS IN BUTTER. THEN WE WOULD SIT THERE, SHE WOULD OPEN THE OVEN DOOR, AND WE WOULD SIT THERE IN FRONT OF THE OVEN AND WE WOULD EAT THESE ONIONS JUST LIKE KIDS WOULD EAT POPCORN OR POTATO CHIPS NOW. WHILE WE WOULD BE SITTING THERE SHE WOULD TELL STORIES OF FINLAND OR SHE WOULD TEACH US SONGS AND SHE WOULD TELL US STORIES FROM THE BIBLE.

"NOW, WHY WERE YOU EATING THE ONIONS?"

WE WERE EATING THE ONIONS TO KEEP THE COLDS AWAY.

"DID ANY OF IT WORK?"

I THINK SO BECAUSE WE NEVER HAD ANY COLDS.

"DO YOU REMEMBER VERY MUCH ABOUT MEDICAL CARE, DID YOUR MOTHER TAKE YOU TO A DOCTOR?"

OH, VERY, VERY LITTLE. PARTICULARLY MYSELF. I WILL SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN HEALTHY, 100% ALL MY LIFE EXCEPTING FOR ONE SPELL WHEN THE DOCTOR CLAIMED THAT HE FOUND CANCER AND I HAD A CANCER OPERATION. I HAVE A COLOSTOMY I HAVE HAD FOR ABOUT 22 YEARS.

"AS FAR AS MEDICINE WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE?"

AS A YOUNSTER, I NEVER HAD, I WAS NEVER SICK THEN. I REMEMBER HAVING LIGHT MEASLES ONE TIME BUT NO KIND OF PNEUMONIA, OH, COLDS, ONCE IN A WHILE BUT NOTHING ELSE.

"SO THE ONIONS MUST HAVE WORKED."

I CONSIDER THAT I HAVE BEEN A VERY HEALTHY PERSON ALL MY LIFE.

"WERE THERE DOCTORS IN ROCKLIN?"

YES, WE HAD ONE OR TWO DOCTORS.

"DID THE FINNS USE DOCTORS AT ALL? DID THEY HAVE THEIR OWN CURES?"

ONLY WHEN THEY HAD TO. THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE MONEY TO THROW AWAY. THERE WASN'T MEDICALE IN THOSE DAYS.

"WHAT I WAS WONDERING, WAS THERE A KIND OF FEELING THAT YOUR MOTHER KNEW WHAT TO DO."

I THINK SO. I THINK EVERY MOTHER OF A FAMILY, WHEN SHE HAD A BUNCH OF KIDS, I THINK THAT INTUITION TOLD HER WHAT TO DO AND WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR.

"DID YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THE STORIES THAT YOUR MOTHER TOLD YOU ABOUT FINLAND, CAN YOU SHARE ANY OF THOSE?"

WELL, SHE TOLD MANY, DIFFERENT STORIES OF FINLAND. MY MOTHER WAS A VERY RELIGIOUS PERSON SO MOST OF HER STORIES WERE KIND OF FROM THE BIBLE. I THINK, IF ANYONE GOT INTO HEAVEN, MY MOTHER SURELY MUST HAVE GONE THERE BECAUSE SHE WAS A REALLY, TRULY A CHRISTIAN PERSON.

"WHAT CHURCH DID SHE GO TO?"

SHE WAS A LUTHERAN, A FINNISH LUTHERAN.

"WAS THERE A LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ROCKLIN?"

THERE WERE TWO LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN ROCKLIN. EVANGELICAL AND APOSTOLIC. I HAD GONE TO BOTH OF THEM. I HAD BEEN BAPTIZED IN THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH. MATT RUHKALA WAS THE ACTING PREACHER. HE WASN'T A GRADUATE, HE WAS AN ACTING PREACHER.

"SO YOUR MOTHER'S RELIGION WAS IMPORTANT TO YOUR FAMILY. DID SHE INSIST THAT ALL OF YOU CHILDREN . . . ?"

YES. SHE HAD SEEN TO IT TOO, AFTER I GOT MARRIED, THAT EVERY ONE OF OUR CHILDREN WAS BAPTIZED.

"TELL ME SOME OF THE SONGS THAT SHE SANG. DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THEM?"

OH YES, A FEW I KNOW AND CAN REMEMBER. MANY OTHERS THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER TOO WELL. I HAVE A LITTLE SONGBOOK HERE THAT SHE WOULD SING FROM BUT EVEN THE TUNES TO THEM I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY MORE. THERE WERE ONE OR TWO THAT ARE REALLY VERY STRONG IN MY MEMORY. ONE ESPECIALLY, THAT I LEARNED ABOUT 75-76 YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS ABOUT FIVE OR SIX YEARS OLD. SHE USED TO SING IT QUITE OFTEN AND I THINK ONE REASON WHY IT HAS STAYED WITH ME IS BECAUSE IT IS ALMOST TRUE TO LIFE, AS FAR AS OUR LIFE IS CONCERNED. THE SCORE OF THE SONG IS 'WHOM SHALL I BELIEVE. MY MOTHER HAS TAUGHT ME THE ROAD TO HEAVEN BUT MY FATHER DISBELIEVES, SO WHOM AM I TO BELIEVE? THAT WOULD BE WHAT THE SONG IS ABOUT BUT IT TAKES A LITTLE BIT LONGER THAN THAT. DO YOU WANT ME TO SING IT?

"Yes."

OKAY, LET'S SEE NOW. (SINGS IN FINNISH, IN VERY GOOD VOICE.)

"DID YOU EVER DECIDE WHETHER TO GO TO YOUR FATHER OR MOTHER?
DOES THE SONG EVER SAY WHICH ONE TO LISTEN TO?"

WELL, I HAVE LISTENED MORE TO MY MOTHER THAN MY FATHER.
MY FATHER WAS BROUGHT UP, I THINK MOST OF THE FINNS IN THOSE
DAYS, THEY WERE ALL CHURCHY PEOPLE AND MY FATHER WAS BROUGHT
UP IN THAT ATMOSPHERE TOO. IN FACT, IN THIS EVANGELICAL
CHURCH NEXT DOOR, IF IT HADN'T HAVE BEEN FOR HIM, THEY
WOULDN'T HAVE PUT THE CHURCH THERE. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN
COMMUNISM CAME IN, WHEN THEY FIRST STARTED TALKING ABOUT IT
IN RUSSIA, I DON'T REMEMBER THE DATES NOW, IT SPREAD LIKE
WILDFIRE THROUGH ALL THE FINNS IN ROCKLIN TOO,

MY FATHER GOT INTO THAT. HE WAS A STRONG DISCIPLE FOR THEM.
HE WAS A STRONG COMMUNIST. HE EVEN HAD BOOKS AND THINGS.
MY MOTHER SAID, 'YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ALL THOSE BOOKS OUT
OF THE HOUSE, I DON'T WANT THEM IN THE HOUSE. IF ANYONE
WOULD HEAR THAT YOU ARE EVEN THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE
THAT, WE WILL ALL BE PUT IN JAIL.' SO HE HAD TO DISPOSE
OF ALL HIS BOOKS. MY MOTHER WOULDN'T LET HIM HAVE ANY IN
THE HOUSE.

"WHY DO YOU THINK HE GOT INVOLVED IN THAT?"

HE GOT TALKED INTO IT WITH SOME OF THE RADICAL FINNS THAT
CAME IN. THERE WERE A LOT OF RADICAL FINNS TOO. SOME OF
THEM, OH GOSH, I CAN REMEMBER THEM STANDING OUT, 'THERE IS
NO GOD OR HELL, JUSTY THEY WERE REAL RADICAL.

"DID THEY HAVE MEETINGS IN ROCKLIN?"

YES, THEY EVEN FORMED A GROUP AND I THINK THAT THEY MET IN WHAT USED TO BE THE OLD METHODIST CHURCH. THERE WERE A BUNCH OF COMMIES IN THERE.

"YOU MEAN THE LABOR TEMPLE?"

THE LABOR TEMPLE, THEY CALLED IT THE LABOR TEMPLE.

"WAS IT A METHODIST CHURCH AFTER IT WAS A LABOR TEMPLE?"

NO, IT WAS A METHODIST CHURCH FIRST. THEN IT BECAME A LABOR TEMPLE. IN THE BASEMENT, THEY HAD A RESTAURANT FOR THE FINNS, EVEN BOARDING HOUSE.

"WELL, I WONDERED ABOUT THE SOCIALIST, AS IT PERTAINED TO
. . . .

THE ROCKLIN LIBRARY IS ON THAT BLOCK.

"DO YOU THINK THAT SOCIALISM WAS EVER A BIG DEAL IN ROCKLIN?
DID A LOT OF PEOPLE GO WITH IT, THE COMMUNISM?"

THEY HAD ENOUGH SO THAT THEY COULD KEEP IT GOING. I WOULD SAY THEY HAD MAYBE 20-30 OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

"WERE CONDITIONS REAL BAD HERE? WHY DO YOU THINK THEY WERE INTERESTED IN IT?"

AT THAT TIME, WHEN THE QUARRY BUSINESS STARTED GOING OUT TOO, THEY FOUND OUT THAT THEY COULD BUILD WITH CEMENT AND CONCRETE A WHOLE LOT CHEAPER SO THEY DIDN'T TAKE THE GRANITE ANY MORE LIKE THEY USED TO. ROCKLIN WAS BOOMING FOR MANY YEARS.

"SO THE SOCIALISM IDEAS CAME IN . . ."

I CAN REMEMBER MY MOTHER ONCE SAYING AS SHE WAS LYING IN A CONFINEMENT BED. SHE HAD \$4,000 UNDER HER PILLOW ONE TIME. THEY REALLY MADE MONEY. IT DIDN'T HARDLY TAKE ANYTHING TO FILL UP A CAR WITH GROUT, THEY CALLED THE ROUGH ROCK, THEY TOOK TO FILL IN. LIKE RUHKALA, THEY DID A LOT, ESPECIALLY NOW, THERE ARE MORE TOMBSTONES AND FINISH WORK BUT IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS MOSTLY GROUT.

"BUSINESS MUST HAVE BEEN BOOMING FOR A LONG TIME."

OH YES.

"DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OTHER SONGS THAT YOU USED TO SING?"

WELL, THERE IS ANOTHER LITTLE ONE THAT DOESN'T SOUND VERY MUCH, BUT IT HAS TO DO WITH DECIDING, AND IT GOES SOMETHING LIKE THIS: (SINGS A FINNISH SONG) IT'S A LITTLE DIDDY, MY HOME IS IN FINLAND IN A DALE.

"IT'S AMAZING HOW YOU REMEMBER THE WORDS."

THOSE TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES I KNOW OUTRIGHT.

"WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH."